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able collections made by Mr. Nicoll during the voyages have been presented to the Natural History Museum by Lord Crawford, who is one of the trustees of that institution.

ABOUT thirty members of the New York Physics Club are attending the free course of lectures given to them by the Department of Electrical Engineering at Columbia University. These will be followed by a course of lectures in thermodynamics given by Professor Charles E. Lucke, of the department of mechanical engineering, from 4 to 5 P.M., on Tuesdays in April. All teachers of physics are invited to attend these lectures.

THE Harvard Engineering Society will hold its tenth annual dinner at the Union on March 21. Professor Hollis will preside, and the following gentlemen will speak: President Eliot, Frederick P. Fish '75, E. A. S. Clarke '84, president of the Lackawanna Steel Company; George A. Kimball, chief engineer of the Boston Elevated Railway Company; H. L. Smyth '83, professor of mining and metallurgy; George A. McKay, president of the Harvard Engineering Society; and others. In connection with the dinner it is proposed to organize an Association of Harvard Engineers, and a meeting for this purpose will be held at the Union on the same day.

PROFESSOR KAMERLINGH OHNES, of Leiden, announces that he has converted helium into a solid. The last evaporating parts are said to show considerable vapor pressures, as if the liquid state is jumped over.

WE learn from the London *Times* that at a meeting of the Royal Society held on the fifth ult. Professor Thorpe, of the Government Laboratory, presented a communication on "The Atomic Weight of Radium," in which he gave the results of an investigation he had been commissioned to make by a committee of the society. About two years ago the Royal Society received a considerable amount of the residues from the uranium workings of the mines at Joachimsthal, in Bohemia, belonging to the Austrian government, in which material Madame Curie first detected the existence of radium. These residues have been worked up, partly in France,

and partly in London by Dr. Thorpe, who extracted from them the radium chloride which served for his determination of the atomic weight of this rare element. Dr. Thorpe finds from his experiments that the atomic weight of radium is 227, which is in almost exact agreement with the number recently published by Madame Curie.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AN anonymous benefactor, considering that the year 1909, in which biologists have decided to celebrate in Cambridge the centenary of Darwin's birth, is a suitable occasion for founding a chair of biology, has offered a sum of £300 a year towards this purpose on condition that it shall be the duty of the professor to teach or make researches in heredity. The council of the senate proposes to create a professorship in biology for a period of five years at an annual stipend of £700.

THE chancellor, Lord Rosebery, will visit University College on the afternoon of March 26, and will formally open the new libraries and the new south wing, which includes lecture rooms for the faculty of arts, the departments of geology, hygiene and experimental psychology, also large extensions of the departments of applied mathematics, of mechanical, electrical and municipal engineering, and accommodation for the new hydraulic laboratory.

COL. E. A. WALL, of Salt Lake City, has established a research fellowship (\$500) in the State School of Mines, the engineering department of the University of Utah, located at Salt Lake City. This fellowship is awarded annually in June to some graduate student of ability to promote research work in mining, ore-dressing, or metallurgy.

PROFESSOR CHARLES L. BEACH, of the University of Vermont, has been elected president of the Connecticut Agricultural College at Storrs.

M. CAMILLE MATIGNON has been appointed professor of mineral chemistry at the Collège de France in succession to M. H. Le Châtelier, who recently accepted the chair of general chemistry at the Sorbonne.